

In the Abstract:

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 2 to 10, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

~~The invention relates to a method for the production of a semifinished product of composite material. The~~
A semifinished product of composite material consists of a metallic matrix material and high tensile strength fibers embedded in the matrix material, whereby the metallic matrix material is formed of titanium or a titanium based alloy. ~~According to the invention, ceramic~~ Ceramic particles are encased or embedded in the matrix material for increasing the strength of the semifinished product with respect to torsional loading or transverse loading. ~~(Fig. 3)~~ The product is produced by a method in which the fibers are coated with the matrix material, ceramic particles are embedded in the matrix material coating the fibers, and then the thusly coated fibers are arranged in a desired geometry and are consolidated to form the product.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]